

'Look North', Dr M urges traders

By **KARTINI ABDUL KADIR**

MALAYSIANS have been urged to "Look North" in view of the increasing business opportunities available as a result of developments taking place in southern Thailand.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr **Mahathir Mohamad** said last night Malaysian entrepreneurs should **capitalise** on the opportunities presented to them as a result of the emphasis on infrastructure developments in southern Thailand.

Speaking at the National Chamber of Commerce and Industry Malaysia's (NCCIM) **annual dinner** in Kuala Lumpur, he said the cement factories in Langkawi and Perlii, for example, can supply materials to Thailand.

While urging Malaysians to "Look North", the Prime Minister hastened to add that it does not mean the Government is abandoning its "Look East" policy nor reducing its emphasis on domestic developments.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir stressed the need for closer cooperation between the public and private sectors to ensure the success of Malaysia Incorporated. He said it is essential to ensure that the country's economic growth is not hampered by infrastructure bottlenecks as has been the case in some countries.

He pointed out that container movements in **Pasir Gudang** and Penang ports has increased substantially. In view of this, he said both ports require additional wharves to cater to the increasing demand and the private sector should come forward to assist.

With the increasing flow of foreign investments into the country the Prime Minister said efforts must be made to ensure that their requirements are met. He urged Malaysian entrepreneurs to gear up for large-scale capital investments in joint ventures with foreigners. Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysians cannot expect foreigners to wait until they (Malaysians) have sufficient capital for the joint ventures.